

MISSOURI CONSERVATIONIST

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Serving Nature & You

Special Issue
THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF CONSERVATION



Laying the Foundation for a Bright Tomorrow

This month's *Conservationist* takes an in-depth look at the Conservation Department's new strategic plan, called *The Next Generation of Conservation*. This far-reaching strategy was recently adopted by the Conservation Commission to ensure that the Department will continue to conserve Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources for the benefit of the state's citizens.

The Next Generation of Conservation goes far beyond the typical strategic plan of public agencies. We consulted with many partners before finalizing the plan, and we researched the condition of Missouri's plants and animals with an eye toward managing them for years to come. We also studied Missourians' expectations and desires to identify the services needed to meet our public service obligations.

The Department is grateful to all Missouri citizens for their contributions to conservation programs through a dedicated sales tax and the purchase of hunting, fishing and trapping permits. The financial support has remained consistent over the last three decades, and the results are outstanding. However, future excellence in conservation will rely on the continued strength of conservation revenues, and on Department leaders who accept the public trust to use those funds responsibly.

Defining clear priorities is part of responsible leadership. *The Next Generation of Conservation* describes today's challenges and opportunities and the Department's dedication to achieving the things most valued and most needed. We are committed to achieving the priorities listed in the plan, and we intend to earn your trust by meeting these goals.

As I begin my fifth year as Conservation Department director, my appreciation for strategic planning is far greater than it was when I started my career 29 years ago as a Missouri conservation agent. Good plans incorporate the best of our past and dare us to reach beyond our current understanding. Important to the process are our collective experiences with the people we value.

On a beautiful Saturday in May, I visited Montauk State Park during "Kids Fishing Day," when part of

the stream is stocked with trout and set aside for only young people. I stopped at one of my favorite fishing holes to watch children of all ages land some good fish. The joy on the children's faces was inspirational to someone who has just spent months thinking about *The Next Generation of Conservation*. I realized that our work will be for these kids and thousands more like them, all of whom will value the outdoors in their own way.

Getting children to love and value natural resources is critical to conservation's future. There are many ways

to accomplish this, but mentors make a human connection that cements a lasting impression. Love of the outdoors is a special gift many will never receive unless those of us who have it are willing to share.

I often remember one person who cherished his time outside and loved to share it with others, including me, my wife and our sons. Joe Heavin had a big impact on my life. I thought of him as I watched those children fish, and I remembered that Joe caught a lunker trout from that very hole on the last fishing trip we made together. I took what may be my best photo ever of Joe in the moments just after he released



that big fish. Joe died of cancer a few months later, but his gifts to my family and me live on.

Although he didn't live long enough to see me become Department director, Joe's wisdom and values often surface when I face difficult or important matters. I think he would approve of *The Next Generation of Conservation*. Like so many Missouri citizens who care passionately about the outdoors, he expected our conservation leaders to think broadly and to have their eyes open to the challenges and responsibilities of the future.

I invite you to study this special issue and think about the many different places where natural resources depend upon us to succeed. Then think about how important it is that knowledge of healthy habitats, clean waters and collaborative conservation be passed on to our grandchildren. We pledge to do our part, and we welcome you as a partner in this worthy pursuit.

John Hoskins, director, Missouri Department of Conservation



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(Front) Delrose Barnhill, crewmember, and Krystal Pree, crewleader, of the Southeast Youth Conservation Corps, refine their paddling skills.
—by Cliff White



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Reflections

WAY TO GO, JOE!

The look of intense concentration on the faces of the children on page 14 of the August issue ["Meet Joe Polka"] just about broke my heart. What a wonderful thing Joe is doing for the children lucky enough to enjoy his talks. I'm sure he makes a lasting impression on them.

Joe is one of the unsung heroes in our state. I'm just happy Lynn [Youngblood] informed the rest of us of Joe's talent.

Virginia Narzinski, Lincoln

MEMORY BOXES

Your beautiful July issue brought back memories. The stunning photos of box turtles and the intriguing article made me think of the summers my mother and I spent watching box turtles. I was fascinated by them, so when I was about 5, my mother suggested we study them more closely.

Since we didn't know whether we

were seeing the same turtles or new ones in our yard, we developed a system of marking them.

We would name each turtle, alphabetically, then mark its initial and the year we first saw it in red nail polish on its carapace. We recorded its name, gender, weight, appearance and place found, then released it. If we saw it again, we gave it a fresh coat of polish, re-weighed it, noted its visit in our records and let it go.

It was a fun project and I still expect to see a bright red letter on the turtles that wander into my yard!

Sarah Bennett, Niangua

WE MAKE HOUSECALLS

I've read your magazine the past couple of times I've gone to the doctor's office and wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed it (the only good thing about the doctor's office). Your readability level is great—your editors do a really

good job at making this magazine friendly to readers who are new to the subjects. I've subscribed so I can stop going to the doctor to read it, and because I know my 8-year-old will love it, too! Thanks for your good work!

Jeanette Littleton, Gladstone

...OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER

I was reviewing your article "Birds of a Feather..." in the latest *Missouri Conservationist* (August issue). The picture shown on page 20 is identified as a field sparrow. The photo shown is clearly not a field sparrow—it is a very nice-looking song sparrow.

Just thought I would bring this to your attention.

Dave Pierce, St. Louis Audubon Society

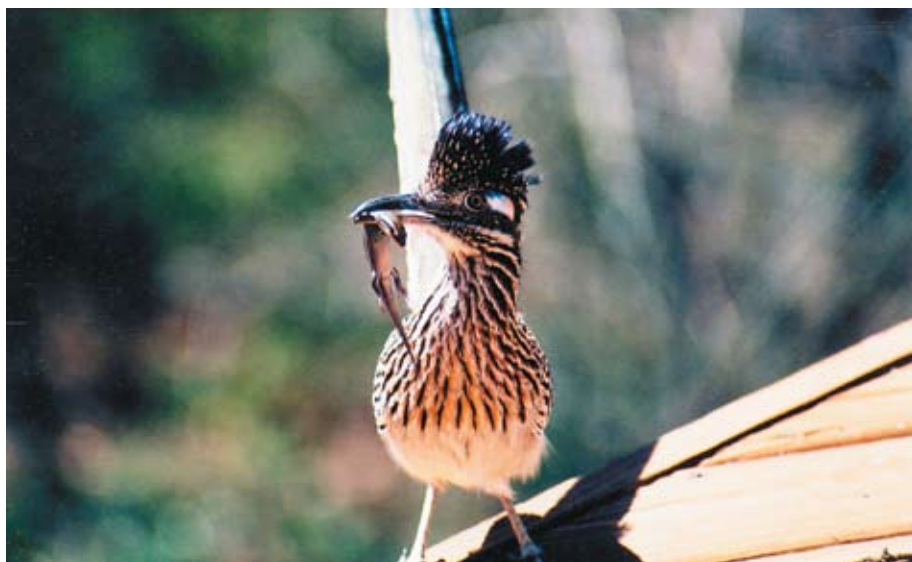
Editor's note: The bird is, indeed, a song sparrow. We regret any confusion this may have caused our readers.

READER RELAY

My husband, Bruce, and I moved to Missouri over five years ago. This is a sort of coming home for Bruce. His mother was born in Ava and his father in Columbia. The Brown family moved to Missouri in 1820, and Brown Station is named after one of his relatives.

Since we are outdoors-type people, we immediately subscribed to your magazine and loved it so much that we sent a subscription to Bruce's father and mother, Ross and Gwenneth Brown, in Indiana, where they live. They have enjoyed it as well since it often brings back memories of their childhood and courtship.

Ross was so taken by the quality of the magazine that he started sending his old copies to a pen pal he has in Europe. His pen pal, Eric Rogers, and his wife, Christine, live in Norfolk, England. Eric is a retired forester and loves your magazine. They have often commented about its quality and decided to share it with other folks in their hometown. Eric donates the copies to the local library



ONE FOR THE ROAD

The greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*) wasn't seen (or at least reported) in Missouri until 1956, near Branson. They are now found in southwestern Missouri and occasionally as far north as Jefferson City. Though good fliers, they are primarily ground-dwelling and are often seen running across roads and glades. Insects, reptiles and amphibians make up the bulk of their diet, but they also consume small mammals, birds, eggs, fruit and seeds. Jim and Karen Harding took this photo of a male with a skink at their home in Cedar Creek.

for others to read about life in Missouri. So, to make a long story short, you are reaching far beyond the state line in educating folks about Missouri wildlife and citizens. Thanks for all you do.

Dr. Lisa A. Ford-Brown
*Assistant Professor of Speech
Communication, Columbia College*

APPLAUDING ADVENTURERS

I wanted to commend Agent Randy Doman for his article in the August 2006 *Conservationist* ["Agent Notebook"].

My son, David, is totally blind. His best friend, Stewart, has spina bifida and is in a wheelchair. Both of them enjoy nothing more than to go fishing or hunting with Stewart's dad. Many

people laugh when I say David went hunting with his friend Stewart. There isn't anything in this world as beautiful to me as David's smile and excitement when he comes back from one of their hunting or fishing trips. Although David can't see and Stewart can't walk, they both enjoy spending the time together and together they make a great team.

Thanks for realizing that people with handicaps are people, too, and they enjoy the same things as you and I.

Jill Speckhals, Jefferson City

CORRECTION

In the July 2006 issue, the cover photo caption (page 1) incorrectly read "ornate box turtle." The caption should have read "three-toed box turtle."

The letters printed here reflect readers' opinions about the Conservationist and its contents. Space limitations prevent us from printing all letters, but we welcome signed comments from our readers. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Ask the Ombudsman



Q: When folding my fishing permit it got all wrinkled, so I decided to laminate it. To my surprise, the permit turned black. My signature and year are visible (barely). What are my options?

A: The material used for permits is treated for printing with a thermal printer head, so the printing is actually *created by heat, not ink*. The lamination process also uses heat, and unfortunately it turns the whole thing black, as

you discovered. A permit that has been destroyed or lost can be replaced by any permit vendor for \$2.

Heritage Cards that have been lost can also be replaced in the same manner, but please be sure the vendor knows you want to replace a Heritage Card instead of a permit.

While we're discussing permits, dove and teal seasons begin this month. Don't forget to purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting Permit. It's required for those age 16 and older in addition to the prescribed hunting permit to pursue, take, possess and transport waterfowl, doves, snipe, woodcock and rails. A federal duck stamp also is required for hunting waterfowl.

Ombudsman Ken Drenon will respond to your questions, suggestions or complaints concerning Conservation Department programs. Write him at P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, call him at 573/522-4115, ext. 3848, or e-mail him at Ken.Drenon@mdc.mo.gov.

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The Seven-Year Night

A personal history of campaigning for the conservation sales tax reveals the people and passion behind the celebrated

Design for Conservation.

by Joel M. Vance



Joel Vance, 1972

It was the longest night of my life. It lasted seven years. In the small hours of the morning, when even the best news doesn't seem that great, we waited for final election results. Talk had dwindled to a minimum, mostly discouraged.

"I thought we'd lost it," said Ed Stegner, who then was the executive secretary of the Conservation Federation of Missouri. He was one of the many who had given their heart and soul to the 1976 Conservation Sales Tax Campaign that began in 1969.

For me, passage of the *Design for Conservation* (the name of the program that the tax would pay for) was the end of the toughest half-dozen years of what would be more than 20 years with the Department of Conservation.

The pressure began almost the day I started working at the Conservation Department in 1969. I had joined what then was the Information Section. "Have you heard about the Leopold Report?" asked fellow writer and editor Mark Sullivan. "You'd better bone up on it—you'll be involved."

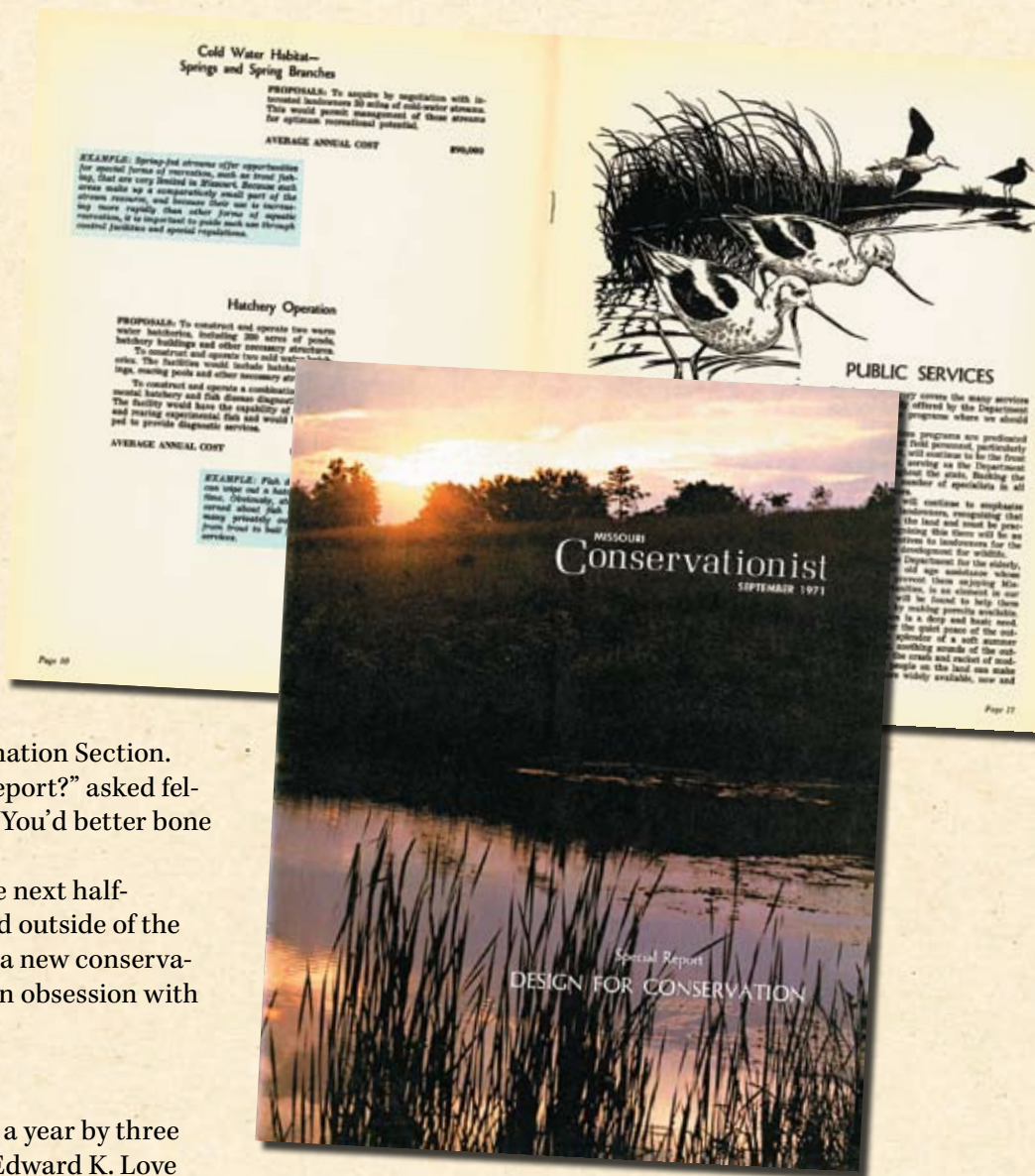
That was an understatement. In the next half-decade, along with many others in and outside of the Department, the campaign to realize a new conservation program would become almost an obsession with us. It was not a job; it was a calling.

Where we were

The Department had been studied for a year by three consultants, with the fee paid by the Edward K. Love Foundation of St. Louis. The consultants were Starker Leopold, Irving Fox and Charley Callison.

Starker Leopold was the son of Aldo Leopold, often considered the greatest philosopher/conservationist ever. Starker had deep ties to the Department. He'd been a graduate wildlife student in Missouri and had done turkey research on Caney Mountain Conservation Area. Irving Fox was a water resources expert from Wisconsin. The third team member, Charley Callison, was the executive vice president of the National Audubon Society and one of Missouri's own. They looked at what the Department was doing in fish, wildlife and forestry conservation—and, more importantly, what it should be doing.

The trio concluded that while the Department had done an exemplary job of providing for hunters and anglers, it had neglected the majority of Missourians who didn't hunt or fish. It was, the study concluded, a lack of money, not a lack of desire. And the flip side was that hunting and fishing areas were being used for many



The September 1971 *Conservationist* reprinted the *Design for Conservation* as an example of what could be done for Missourians if funds were made available.

activities other than those two things, but the people doing the using were paying none of the upkeep.

The Leopold team concluded there was an obligation to provide and manage areas for everyone, but no money to do it. So, a conservation program for the future needed to find a funding source and then develop a program that offered something for everyone. It sounded like pie in the sky.

But there still were pioneers of the 1930s petition campaign that

A conservation program for the future needed to find a funding source and then develop a program that offered something for everyone.



Ed Stegner

Ed Stegner led the campaign for a soft drink tax, the first attempt to fund the *Design for Conservation*.

had given Missouri conservation its constitutional protection. There was also a new breed of younger, but no less dedicated conservationists. They believed that Missourians had faith in the program they'd created in the Depression days and would support a giant leap forward.

Where we wanted to be

Director Carl Noren recognized that conservation in Missouri was stalled without additional funding. Every division and section wanted to do far more but had no money or staff to do it. The education program was small. A Natural History Division didn't even exist. Compared to other outdoor states, Missouri was public land-poor.

Conservation agents literally qualified for food stamps. Missouri, with a history of cherishing conservation, dating to the 1936 constitutional amendment, was running way behind.

But you can't just ask people to trust you with their money. You have to tell them where the money will go. That's where the dreamers became planners. My boss, Jim Keefe, was among the handful of thinkers and

wordsmiths. He'd been editor of the *Conservationist* since 1957, and his monthly column was the essence of the Department's direction and philosophy.

The September 1971 issue of the *Conservationist* contained the text of the Leopold Report and the Department's proposals in response. We called it "Challenge and Response." The Leopold study provided guidelines, which were that people, especially urban people, needed places to go and Missouri didn't have enough public land.

The dreamers, as inventive as they were, ran smack into hardheaded realists among citizen conservationists. "Yes," they said. "all well and good, but we want dollar signs attached to these ideas."

The result was The Citizens' Committee for Conservation, an invaluable group that provided the feedback necessary to learn not just what the Leopold study experts thought the Department should be doing, but also what the people of Missouri thought should be done. We put figures to the ideas and called it the *Design for Conservation*. But it all depended on money.

Funding the Design

The first try was in 1972, a petition for a soft drink tax. The petition drive gathered the most

We traveled the state talking about the *Design*. Everyone knows now that the one-eighth cent sales tax for conservation passed, but until those wee hours in early November 1976, we didn't.



Jim Keefe



Doris "Dink" Keefe

Editor Jim Keefe promoted the *Design* in the *Conservationist* and afield, while his wife, Dink, worked on the petition drive.

signatures ever on a citizen initiative. But none counted because conservationists proved better at taking care of outdoor resources than they did at drafting a petition. The proposal lost a court challenge because it lacked the simple words, "Be it hereby enacted...."

It was like being Santa Claus and getting stuck in a narrow chimney, managing to struggle free, then dropping the gifts down the chimney... only to see them burn up because someone forgot to put out the fire. The Citizens' Committee, both young and old, took a deep breath and decided to try it again, this time with a valid petition and a different funding source—a general sales tax.

No one person deserves more credit than Doris "Dink" Keefe, Jim Keefe's wife. Mother and homemaker her entire life, she decided that someone needed to organize the petition drive. It was light years from anything she'd ever done, but she volunteered full time, unpaid, for a year at the Conservation Federation office, organizing petitions. There were thousands of signatures to check in nine congressional districts.

We traveled to shopping centers on weekends, carrying a clipboard with nine petitions, one each for a different congressional district. I made one talk in a rural school and the audience was polite...but every single one rushed out at the end without signing. Thankfully, that was rare. Most people signed. I can't



Charles Schwartz

Artists, conservationists and biologists, the Schwartzes lent invaluable support to the conservation sales tax campaign.

recall anyone being rude, although some said they'd rather not sign anything. It was daunting to ask strangers to sign a petition to tax themselves, but we all got braver as we went along.

After the first debacle—leaving out four words—the second try had to be meticulously checked, and Dink was the checker. There were no phony signatures, nor mistakes. She made sure.

Charlie and Libby Schwartz put pictures and sound to my script for a movie called *Design for Conservation* that showed to groups all over the state. Carl

Noren and Ed Stegner traveled many miles together, speaking to any group of any size. Carl would outline the plan, the design, and Stegner would explain that a vote for the tax would ensure the plan.



Libby Schwartz



The August 1975 *Conservationist* promoted funding the *Design* through an eighth of one percent sales tax.

The long wait

We traveled the state talking about the *Design*. Everyone knows now that the one-eighth cent sales tax for conservation passed, but until those wee hours in early November 1976, we didn't. We stirred restlessly at the Ramada Inn in Jefferson City, a television set muttering in the background with election news. Local druggist and hunter Jim Whaley showed me a pair of English double-barreled shotguns that had bluing deep enough to go swimming in. Lovely as they were, I couldn't concentrate on anything but that television set with its talking heads and updated vote totals.

Hour after hour it looked grim, but this was such a great program and Missouri such a conservation-oriented state that I couldn't believe what we'd worked so hard for could fail. A political consultant and friend of conservation had told Ed Stegner that the more voters who turned out, the more likely it was our tax would fail. It was a record turnout, and the governor, now Senator Kit Bond, lost his bid for re-election (he would win a second term four years later). He had been a staunch friend of Missouri's outdoors for his four years in office.

There was so much at stake. The entire future of Missouri's conservation program rested on what the voters decided that night. I doubt we would have tried a third petition drive, no matter that "third time is a charm" is supposed to be true. It started to turn from dark to daylight, but gradually the votes in favor of the tax climbed, and finally it was over. We had won.

Hard work and happy endings

So many dreams were part of the *Design for Conservation*; so many now-legendary conservationists had contributed their wisdom. Most have since died, but their names and faces are as close to me as those of my family: Jim and Doris "Dink" Keefe, Mike Milonski, Charlie Schwartz, Carl Noren. All are now gone. They have been named to the Conservation Hall of Fame, along with Ted Scott, chairman of The Citizens' Committee.

Ed Stegner and Libby Schwartz, now 93, are among the living handful of those who thought it out and made it happen. The effort included folks from every corner of the state. Many carried petitions. Others spoke to any group that would listen. Most important, they voted.

When the word finally came, conservation had won. Missourians had decided to tax themselves to ensure the diversity and health of Missouri's woods, waters and wildlife. It was and is a landmark effort,

There was so much at stake. The entire future of Missouri's conservation program rested on what the voters decided that night.



Author Joel Vance remains an avid outdoorsman who continues to support conservation through his writing.

envied by every other state agency, and still is unique in its constitutional authority.

The conservation sales tax has endured for 30 years and has brought Missourians an extensive program as well as new places to hunt, fish, hike, birdwatch and whatever else folks do outdoors.

What sold the *Design* was reaching potential “yes” voters with a twofold message: first, that they should tax themselves to protect Missouri’s natural resources for their children and grandchildren, and second, that they should do it for themselves. It was an appeal both to altruism and self-interest.

It took people with a rare combination of foresight and luck to get it before the public, and it took a voting public

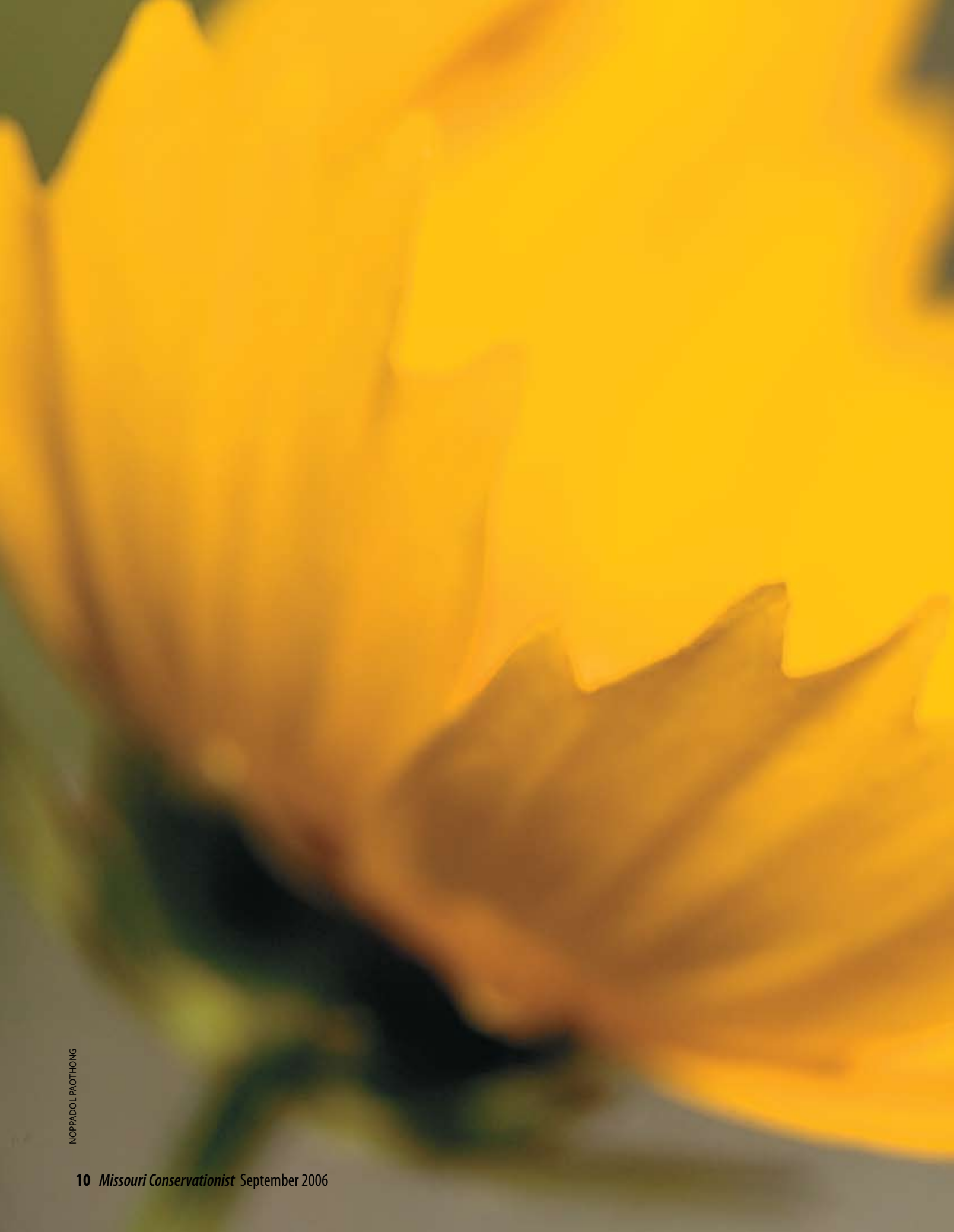
with an even more rare confidence in one of its governmental agencies to make it happen.

The sun was coming up when I finally fell asleep. My last thought before I drifted

off was *We won, we really won...* and then I amended it: *No—Missouri won.* It still is winning, 30 years later. ▲

Promises Kept

For more information on how the Department kept the promises made in *Design for Conservation*, go online at www.missouriconservation.org/conmag/2002/03/ or request a copy from *Promises Made, Promises Kept*, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or e-mail pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov.



NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

*"The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone, nor even in the present, but rather in the future."
—Aldo Leopold*

The Next Generation of Conservation at Work



*A new plan guides the Conservation
Department toward a better future for
Missouri's resources.* by Tom Cwynar

Ever since voters first established the Conservation Department by voting for a constitutional amendment in 1936, generations of Missourians have pulled together to protect our state's fish, forests and wildlife.

A new strategic plan, *The Next Generation of Conservation*, leads the Conservation Department's staff and resources into the future. Like the strategic plans that preceded it, *The Next Generation* outlines how the Conservation Department will fulfill its constitutional mandate to serve Missourians by protecting the state's fish, forest and wildlife resources.



CLIFF WHITE

The new strategic plan gives our generation of conservationists a path to success. Through partnerships, sound scientific data, respect for public opinion and a dedication to public service, we can fulfill our obligation to protect and manage our natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

Looking Ahead

The Next Generation of Conservation starts with a vision of the future. Not content with the status quo or to rest on its many achievements, the Conservation Department created a plan that paints a picture of how Missouri's plants, wildlife and people could be better served.

Naturally, we have to start with healthy, sustainable plant and animal communities throughout the state. The Conservation Department has been protecting our fish, forest and wildlife resources since it was established, but this plan envisions improving those resources so that they are in "appreciably better condition tomorrow than they are today."

Improvement will come from working closely with our most important partner, the people of Missouri. We might have a hard time persuading every person in the state to plant a tree or pick up trash along a river, but we can gain people's support for conservation action.

It's enough if Missourians recognize that conservation is one of the state's best investments. People pay a tiny fraction of their taxes for the everyday advantages of beautiful scenery, clean waterways and a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. Beyond improving our quality of life, conservation also gives a lift to the state's economy. In fact, Missourians and travelers from other states spend much more money on outdoor recreation than we spend for conservation of those resources that make outdoor recreation possible. Conservation pays for itself.

The vision would not be complete without underscoring the value of partnerships. Call partnerships the power of many. Working together, people, organizations, local governments and agencies can create a Missouri that our children and their children can love and enjoy. They will thank us for planning ahead on their behalf.

Working together, people, organizations, local governments and agencies can create a Missouri that our children and their children can love and enjoy.

The Commission's Mission

The Conservation Commission of Missouri, which the state's citizens voted into existence in 1936 when they approved Constitutional Amendment No. 4, oversees the operations of the Missouri Department of Conservation. The four-member Commission operates under directives outlined in the Constitution of Missouri. These directives are:

- ✧ Members are appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. No more than two of the four shall be from the same political party.
- ✧ Members of the Conservation Commission need to have knowledge of and interest in wildlife conservation.
- ✧ Each commissioner serves a term of six years, beginning on the first day of July of consecutive odd years.
- ✧ Conservation Commissioners shall receive no salary or other compensation, but they shall receive reimbursement for travel and other expenses.

Duties of the commission include serving as the Department's policy makers, approving Missouri Wildlife Code Regulations, appointing the Department's director, developing budgets, making major expenditure decisions and helping to develop and approve strategic plans.

Commissioners were engaged in the entire 18-month development process of *The Next Generation of Conservation* strategic plan, which concluded with their final approval of the plan in the April 2006 Commission meeting. Current members of the Commission are Stephen C. Bradford of Cape Girardeau, William F. "Chip" McGeehan of Marshfield, Cynthia Metcalfe of St. Louis and Lowell Mohler of Jefferson City. All four agree that *The Next Generation of Conservation* is a sound strategic plan that incorporates both professional expertise and public opinion.

"It's a strategic plan that lays out very clearly a road map for the future of conservation priorities that this Department has established and this Commission has approved," Mohler said. "It gives a lot of support to partner-



Left to Right: Commissioners Stephen C. Bradford, Cynthia Metcalfe, William F. "Chip" McGeehan and Lowell Mohler.

ships and the importance of us [the Department of Conservation] teaming up with many others to make this plan work."

"The important thing about *The Next Generation* plan is the recognition it gives to the wonderful natural diversity of our state, as well as to the diversity of interests and the importance of nature to our citizens," Metcalfe said.

"In the 1970s, we came out with *Design for Conservation*," McGeehan said. "*The Next Generation* is a great road map to continue the quality of life for the residents of Missouri in regard to their enjoyment of our fish, forest and wildlife."

"I think the citizens of Missouri can take comfort in the fact that the Department of Conservation staff will, indeed, implement this program just as they did the *Design for Conservation*," Bradford said. —Francis Skalicky

Our Goals For the Next Generation

- ✧ *Conserving Plants, Animals and Their Habitats*
- ✧ *Protecting Clean and Healthy Waters*
- ✧ *Promoting Healthy Trees and Forests*
- ✧ *Preserving Missouri's Outdoor Recreation Heritage*
- ✧ *Teaching Missourians About Fish, Forest and Wildlife Resources*
- ✧ *Supporting Conservation in our Communities*
- ✧ *Helping Private Landowners Advance Conservation*
- ✧ *Serving Nature and You on Conservation Areas*
- ✧ *Accounting for Department Operations*

In *The Next Generation of Conservation*, the nine goals are accompanied by discussions of the challenges that face us and the results we want to achieve. Each is then followed by a list of specific work we will do to achieve

that goal. However, it is not an exhaustive list of all that the Department will do to achieve that goal.

The lists are included within the plan, which has been reprinted in this issue. While the goals are general, the work listed is more specific. For example, under the goal of Conserving Plants, Animals and Their Habitats, the list includes: "Establish or expand 40

Study the Plan

Download a digital copy of *The Next Generation of Conservation* from www.missouriconservation.org/documents/about/nextgen.pdf or request extra copies from *The Next Generation of Conservation*, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or e-mail pubstaff@mdc.mo.gov.

Natural Areas to enhance Missouri's Natural Areas System and to protect the best examples of Missouri's ecological subsections."

Under the goal of Supporting Conservation in Our Communities, the "What we will do" list includes: "Develop a virtual 'conservation neighborhood' model and on-the-ground examples that demonstrate conser-

A Bold Initiative

The Next Generation of Conservation builds on past plans and adds unique concepts that reflect the philosophy and priorities of the current Conservation Commission and John Hoskins, the current Conservation Department director.

In his first address to the Conservation Department staff after being named director in 2002, Hoskins encouraged Department employees to provide exemplary public service.

"There's no room for arrogance," he said at the conclusion of his speech. "We must actively listen to our constituents, respect their views and act in the best interest of Missourians. This is the highest way we can honor our state's citizens."

Hoskins also believes in the value of conservation partners, whether they be landowners, government entities, organizations or simply conservation-minded people. Partnerships pool energy, impetus and resources to make conservation happen more efficiently.

vation-friendly construction methods and the economic value of amenities like neighborhood greenspace, trails, forest buffers, wildlife habitat corridors, stream corridor protection and wildlife viewing opportunities."

Many of the items listed have target dates. For example, under the goal of Teaching Missourians About Fish, Forest and Wildlife Resources, we plan to: "Create a new, school-based Learning Outdoors program by 2008 that features wildlife, ecology and aquatic units designed to meet testing standards while providing exciting, hands-on learning experiences for Missouri students."

The Next Generation of Conservation will guide Conservation Department employees, programs, activities and philosophy for years to come. Already, Department budgets and positions are being changed to meet the requirements of the plan. In a short time, you'll even see changes to the Conservation Department's Web site and to the *Conservationist* magazine that will focus our activities toward the strategic plan's goals and allow the public to monitor our efforts and, ultimately, our success in fulfilling the plan.

The Next Generation of Conservation is essential if we are to fulfill our responsibility of passing on a better world to those who come after us.



CLIFF WHITE

Director John Hoskins (center)



Generational Hunting

“When we’re out hunting, we just talk about life in general.”



CLIFF WHITE

Meeting *Next Generation* Goals

The Conservation Department is committed to providing opportunities for Missourians like the West family to continue to enjoy outdoor activities. If our outdoor recreation heritage is to continue, families like the Wests will have to continue to pass down their hunting traditions to future generations. Hunting, trapping and fishing provide an essential service in controlling some populations of fish and wildlife as well as contributing to the state economy. Conservation lands also play a role in maintaining our outdoor recreation heritage by providing easy access and comfortable facilities so that people can enjoy them with friends or family.

✂ **Preserving Missouri’s Outdoor Recreation Heritage**

✂ **Serving Nature and You on Conservation Areas**

James West Sr. started hunting when he was 10 or 11. When his son, James West Jr., reached that age, it seemed like a good idea for him to go hunting, too.

The Wests, who live in Hayti, which is near Caruthersville in Pemiscot County, have been hunting together for nearly 30 years. They mostly pursue rabbits and some quail, but during the 12-day pheasant season in the Southeast Zone, the two Jameses follow a Brittany spaniel named Simon across public hunting land. The elder James said Simon has a good nose for the big birds.

The Wests have been hunting together for nearly 30 years.

James Sr. said he moved to Missouri from Arkansas in 1951. He said even though rabbits are scarcer than they were back then, he and his son still have a good time pursuing them.

The younger James became so enthused about hunting that he joined a multi-state hunting club and has traveled to Iowa and Nebraska several times to hunt pheasants.

When they first started, they were more like teacher and student, with the senior James imparting to his son hunting lore he’d learned on earlier hunts.

James Jr. said he and his dad are now more like buddies hunting together. “We don’t talk like father and son,” he said. “When we’re out hunting, we just talk about life in general.”

James Sr. said he was happy his son took so well to hunting. “It kept him out of trouble,” he said.



Working Together for a Watershed

“We want everybody
with all points of
view involved.”

LaBarque Creek in Jefferson County drains water from a 13-square-mile watershed into the Meramec River.

It does so delightfully. Twisting, turning, tumbling and gurgling, it slides through steep rock canyons and falls over imposing cliffs. Moist, cool nooks and crannies in the sandstone rock near the stream serve as refuges for blueberries, club mosses and the intensely pink fame flower.

“To people tuned into the aesthetics of a landscape, LaBarque is just eye-candy,” said Mike Arduser, a natural history biologist for the Conservation Department’s St. Louis Region. “The acidic soils from the sandstone make for a different suite of plants than you’ll find elsewhere in Missouri. Most people can’t help but be drawn to that kind of beauty.”

LaBarque Creek is remarkably healthy, especially for a stream so close to St. Louis. Fisheries biologists count 42 different species of fish in the 6-mile-long stream. Other nearby Meramec tributaries average just 10 species. In the 1960s, Stewart Udall, then secretary of the interior, considered the area for a national park.

The watershed has remained pristine in the face of Jefferson County’s rapid growth because the steep topography of the landscape has fended off development, and because local landowners love the area too much to risk spoiling it.

That’s why residents of the watershed came out in droves to the LaBarque Creek Festival held in April 2005. Of the 1,300 people who live in the watershed, more than 300 attended the event. They learned more about the history and biology of the area and discussed ways they could protect the unique resource they called home.

“That was really the kickoff to the watershed planning process,” said Tracy Boaz, the community conservationist working out of the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. “We couldn’t have a plan without the enthusiasm and interest of landowners.”

Most of the landowners involved in the planning



Ray and Sunny Oberkramer are landowners and Stream Team members.

PHOTOS BY NOPPADOL PAOTHONG

process are primarily interested in protecting the natural qualities of the LaBarque Creek watershed without causing economic hardship.

Ray Oberkramer, who owns 300 acres in the watershed and hosted one of the first planning meetings at his home, grew up in the area. He recalled how 60 years ago he would catch crayfish and bluegill from LaBarque Creek. He said it was important for people to get the value from their land, but, he added, “I’d hate to see someone come in and scrape the tops off the mountains and fill the valleys and take the sides of the hills and call them common ground.”

He said as they learn more about the natural values of the watershed, landowners are eager to have a say in the planning process. Membership in the LaBarque Creek Stream Team, which his wife, Sunny, started, is also rising.

“More and more people are getting involved,” Oberkramer said, “and that’s all good.”

The creation of a plan for LaBarque Creek watershed coincides with a county master plan revision. Boaz said the Jefferson County government is willing to work with the landowners and the Conservation Department to balance natural resource and development issues.



Sunny, right, with grandchildren Timothy, left, and Morgan, make conservation a family activity.

“It isn’t a question of whether the area is going to develop,” said Martin Toma, director of land use, development and code enforcement for Jefferson County. “We just hope to produce something that will provide guidance for landowners and government so we can achieve our mutual goals of preserving the value of the resource.”

Joining in the planning are a couple handfuls of conservation partners, including the Missouri Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; the Ozark Regional Land Trust; the Trust for Public Land; the Open Space Council; the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation; the East-West Gateway Council of Governments; the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the LaBarque Creek Watershed Partners; the Natural Resources Conservation Service

Meeting *Next Generation* Goals

Developing the LaBarque Creek Watershed Plan illustrates how a single project can meet several *Next Generation of Conservation* goals. Conservation Department personnel are helping landowners advance conservation and are involving the community, including government, in conservation. When complete, the watershed plan will conserve plants, animals and their habitats and protect the clean and healthy waters of LaBarque Creek.

- ✂ **Conserving Plants, Animals and Their Habitats**
- ✂ **Protecting Clean and Healthy Waters**
- ✂ **Supporting Conservation in Our Communities**
- ✂ **Helping Private Landowners Advance Conservation**

and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Technical and general committees meet regularly to hammer out details of the plan, which will include terrestrial and aquatic inventories, Geographic Information Systems data and surveys of residents and other stakeholders.

“We are trying to involve all the people,” Boaz said. “We want everybody with all points of view involved. That’s the only way to develop a plan that’s actually going to work.”



The School and the Cavesnail

"This is a story
I never get tired
of telling."

This is a story of helping. It's about how a school helped a snail, and how agencies, local government and individuals came together to help the school help the snail, and how none of this help could have occurred if the snail wasn't there to help the school in the first place.

The story began in 2004, when Mark Twain Elementary School in Protom discovered that, despite repairs, their aging water treatment lagoon continued to leak raw sewage into the ground.

A new sewage control system would cost Mark Twain Elementary \$90,000, a big bite out of the money the 76-student school would normally spend for books, busses and teachers' salaries.

Compounding the problem was that polluted water from the lagoon was filtering into the recharge area of the Tumbling Creek Cave, a designated national landmark for its biological diversity. Tumbling Creek Cave has more species than any other cave west of the Mississippi River.

Among these species is the story's hero: the Tumbling Creek cavesnail.

In all the world this species lives only in this one cave, and its numbers have dropped so much in the

past 30 years that the species is federally and state endangered. Threats to the cavesnail made the school's water pollution problem an immediate conservation concern.

Richard Needham, the school's superintendent, said the situation went from "unnerving" to a happy circumstance, in which three tiers of government—local, state and federal—along with private individuals were working together.

"It was a classic case of cooperation," he said. "All had an interest in the environment. We wanted to save this cavesnail and keep the school operating."

Funding was the biggest problem. Because of the threat to the cavesnail, the Conservation Department was able to secure a \$20,000 federal Wildlife Diversity Fund grant for the water treatment project.

"That gave the fund-raising effort respectability," said

Tom Aley, owner of the Ozark Underground Laboratory, a research and educational facility in Taney County, which includes Tumbling Creek Cave. "It's like a jar of pickles. The hardest one to get out is the first one."

In all, eight different funding sources, including Aley and the Taney County Commission, helped pay for the new water treatment system, which was completed in March. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service deeded to the school the 14 acres on which the old lagoon was located.

"It couldn't have been better," Needham said. "For essentially no cost to the school, we ended up with a first-class water treatment system that will last 50 years."

He said the old lagoon has already been filled, and the area will become a nature reserve and include a butterfly sanctuary. Future plans include a nature trail and



WILLIAM R. ELLIOTT

This cavesnail, *Antrobia culveri*, can only be found in Tumbling Creek Cave.



WILLIAM R. ELLIOTT

Drs. Stephanie Clark and David C. Ashley place terra cotta tiles in Tumbling Creek for cavesnails to lay eggs upon.



JIM RATHER

Tom Aley talks with schoolchildren from Mark Twain Elementary School about water quality.

an outdoor pavilion that students from Mark Twain Elementary and other schools can use to learn about nature and water quality issues.

“Toward the end, I felt like I was being looked over by a herd of guardian angels,” Needham said, “and it just continues.” He said he is in constant contact with Conservation Department employees Larry Martien and Jay Barber about ways to improve the area by planting native grasses and creating conservation education opportunities.

The Conservation Department has a keen interest in the project because the area is within the Tumbling Creek Cave Ecosystem, one of 33 areas in Missouri that the Conservation Department and conservation partners have identified as Conservation Opportunity Areas. These places provide excellent opportunities to

Meeting *Next Generation* Goals

The Conservation Department’s participation in building a sewage treatment facility at Mark Twain Elementary School guaranteed a viable habitat for an endangered species. At the same time, it brought a variety of partners together to advance the cause of conservation. The combined efforts to conserve plants, animals and their habitat also will result in a nature study area where Missourians can learn more about our fish, forest and wildlife resources.

- ✂ **Conserving Plants, Animals and Their Habitats**
- ✂ **Protecting Clean and Healthy Waters**
- ✂ **Teaching Missourians About Fish, Forest and Wildlife Resources**
- ✂ **Supporting Conservation in Our Communities**
- ✂ **Helping Private Landowners Advance Conservation**

conserve a broad array of plants and animals through focused management and conservation of existing natural systems.

“The Department of Conservation was there at the beginning, and they’re still there,” Needham said. “This is a story I never get tired of telling.”



Help for a Neighbor

“They just looked for volunteers and provided incentives.”

Good fences make good neighbors, but when your neighbor is a little minnow on the verge of extinction, a stream easement is much better than a fence. That's the thinking behind the cooperative agreement the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation recently reached with Ryan Klindt of Harrison County.

The agreement protects crucial habitat for the Topeka shiner, a federally endangered species that hangs on in only a few Missouri streams. Klindt's property borders a stretch of Sugar Creek where Conservation Department fisheries biologists often find the endangered fish.

“I've seen them, too,” Klindt said, “but I never paid much attention to them.”

Klindt owns 208 acres on which he grows corn and soybeans and raises about 200 head of registered Red Angus cattle. In return for a payment that came from the Stream Stewardship Trust Fund, he's agreed not to farm or to allow cattle in a strip of land that ranges from 60 to 180 feet from the creek and a few of its spring-fed tributaries.

Klindt said he can still hunt the property or lease it for hunting, and he can log it with Conservation Department approval. “It really didn't take anything productive away,” Klindt said.

Klindt works full time on his property and 2,000 other acres he rents. “I had to look at the agreement



PHOTOS BY NOPPA DOL PAOTHONG

Ryan Klindt's soybean field borders Sugar Creek, important Topeka shiner habitat.

from the farmer's side,” he said. “I lost about 4 acres of crop ground, but I've got a lot of walnuts planted so if anything it may actually increase the value.”

Klindt said he appreciated the way the Conservation Department handled the agreement. “They didn't come in and try to enforce anything,” he said. “They just looked for volunteers and provided incentives.”

Klindt said several neighboring farms, including the family farm he grew up on, have entered into similar agreements. He estimated that his family's two farms alone protect about a mile of Sugar Creek.



Meeting *Next Generation* Goals

The Conservation Department looks for opportunities to help private landowners work for the benefit of conservation. This is so important in Missouri because more than 90 percent of the state is privately owned. Although the Department manages conservation areas for the benefit of natural resources, the only way to ensure that Missouri has abundant wildlife, clean water and healthy forests is to encourage and help private landowners incorporate good conservation practices into their land management.

- ✂ **Helping Private Landowners Advance Conservation**
- ✂ **Conserving Plants, Animals and Their Habitats**
- ✂ **Protecting Clean and Healthy Waters**
- ✂ **Promoting Healthy Trees and Forests**

Ryan, with his wife, Kelly, and sons Nolan, left, and Jared. The Klindts accepted an agreement not to farm or allow cattle on land near Sugar Creek and a few of its tributaries.



American
beautyberry

HABITAT HINT: GAUDY BUT GREAT FOR BIRDS

American beautyberry's (*Callicarpa americana*) fall display of brilliant yellow leaves and fuchsia berries could be called gaudy, but it's a true show-stopper that makes this native shrub welcome in home landscapes. Once there, it provides not only a feast for the eyes, but a feast for wildlife as well.

While some 135 *callicarpa* species grow throughout the world, only American beautyberry is native to the United States. Here it is found from Florida to Texas, north to Maryland and in Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, which is at the northern edge of its range. The West Indies and northern Mexico are its southern edge.

This show-stopper starts the growing season in a nondescript manner. From June to July, delicate, rosy pink, perhaps pale blue, flower clusters appear in the leaf axils, attracting a bevy of butterflies and hummingbirds. The plant bursts into full glory in late August to early September when its leaves turn lemon yellow and tightly grouped berries clustered around thin stems turn shades of rose-purple or violet-blue, attracting the attention of bluebirds and mockingbirds, among others.

The dolomite slopes that bordered the White River in southern Missouri once glistened with this fall display that provides food for at least 10 species of birds, as well as small mammals that include armadillos, raccoons, wood rats, gray foxes, opossums and white-tailed deer. The long-lasting fruits provide nutrition for wildlife into the winter months when other sources are depleted.

Water impounded by Table Rock Dam covers many of those slopes, but the plant is still found just above the high-water mark in the area. Now land managers are discovering the beauty of American beautyberry. Considered a "pioneer" plant, it sometimes is used on surface-mined sites to reclaim the land. It's equally useful in providing "edge" shelter and food for bobwhite quail.

In addition to providing wildlife food and shelter, it's a long-time remedy for repelling deerflies, horseflies and mosquitoes. Old-timers crushed its leaves and rubbed them on their skin and their domestic animals. Recently scientists discovered several insect repellent compounds in the leaves—some equivalent to the repellent value of DEET. If all these attributes haven't convinced you to look into planting American beautyberry at your home or on your farm, just think, once again, about that gaudy look that makes you catch your breath on a crisp autumn morning. For information on other Missouri native plants that brighten fall days, visit www.grownative.org.—Barbara Fairchild

Whether growing corn or quail, this picture is worth 1,000 words

These two ears of corn came from opposite sides of the same fence line. The big one grew next to a wildlife buffer enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program with Conservation Practice 33 (CP33). The stunted one grew right next to the fence line, where the corn was being sapped by large trees. The "CP33" edge produced 168 bushels of corn per acre, compared to 45 at the fence edge. CP33 field buffers consist of 30- to 120-foot-wide strips of native grasses, such as little bluestem. Landowners take unproductive land out of production, provide food and cover for quail and other wildlife and protect lakes and streams from runoff water carrying sediment and agricultural chemicals. Farming areas that are marginal for crop production costs the same as farming the best land. The farmer saved money by not farming the CP33 strip, and created hunting opportunities. To learn more about CP33, contact the nearest Conservation Department office (see page 1 for a list of regional office phone numbers) or Farm Service Agency office.





Make your waterfowl reservations

Waterfowl hunters can apply for hunting reservations at state-run wetland areas through Sept. 18. To apply, find the nine-digit identification number printed at the top of a hunting or fishing permit or next to the bar code on your Conservation Heritage Card. Then call 800/829-2956 or visit www.missouriconservation.org. Results of the drawing for waterfowl hunting reservations will be available at the same phone number and Web site Oct. 2. Fountain Grove Conservation Area (CA) will be back on the reservation system this year.

Waterfowl Hunting Changes

Beginning in 2006, reservations for waterfowl hunting at managed waterfowl hunting areas will be for Missouri residents only. Nonresident reservation applications will not be accepted because waterfowl hunting opportunities are limited and the number of nonresident applicants has increased dramatically in recent years. In addition, hunters will be encouraged to "join forces" to put more hunters in the marsh.

During 2004 and 2005, waterfowl hunters at Eagle Bluffs and Otter Slough conservation areas (CAs) experienced a new daily drawing system designed to create an incentive for them to hunt with family or friends instead of hunting alone. Because of the positive results, in 2006 the new "Every Member Draws" system will be implemented this year at Bob Brown, Grand Pass, and Ten Mile Pond CAs, and considered for all other managed waterfowl hunting areas in future years.

Unlike the old system where only one member of a hunting party drew for a hunting location, the new "Every Member Draws" procedure gives every party member the chance to draw, then allows the party to use their best number drawn.

The two test years revealed that the "Every Member Draws" system increased the average number of hunters per party and therefore allowed more hunters to take part in this limited opportunity. At Eagle Bluffs there were an estimated 706 additional hunting trips each year, and 1,271 more trips per year at Otter Slough. Surveys of hunters who experienced the new system indicated that a majority supported its continuation.

One advantage of the new system is that it still accommodates those who prefer to hunt alone. However, it encourages—and somewhat favors—those willing to hunt in a larger group, up to the maximum of four hunters. Implementing the "Every Member Draws" procedure at all managed waterfowl hunting areas should result in 8,000 to 12,000 additional hunting trips each year. Staff will carefully monitor the new system to ensure that it lives up to its potential.

Surplus property auction set for Oct. 21

Trucks, SUVs, sedans, ATVs, boats, motors, office equipment, furniture, farm equipment and other goods will go on sale at 10 a.m. Oct. 21 at the Conservation Department's Salem office. Auction items are on display from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. the day before the auction and starting at 8 a.m. the day of the auction. A complete list of sale items will be available at the registration desk the day of the sale. All property must be paid for on the day of the sale and before removal. Acceptable methods of payment include cash, MasterCard or Visa or personal checks with proper identification. For lists of sale items, call 573/522-4115, ext. 3279 or 3283.

Autumn is time to watch for forest pests

With winter just around the corner, it is easy to let down your guard against forest pests. However, autumn is a critical time to watch for two of the biggest threats to Missouri forests and landscape trees.

Emerald ash borers' most common vehicle for entering new areas is firewood. Adults are metallic green, bullet-shaped beetles up to a half-inch long. To keep them out of Missouri, leave firewood behind when returning from out of state, and use only local sources of firewood. If you accidentally bring firewood from out-of-state, burn it immediately.

Gypsy moths also hitch rides to new areas, but they can travel on anything from lawn furniture to fishing rods. Adult female moths will lay their eggs on any solid object. Vehicles and trailers are favorite egg-laying sites. If you hunt, fish or camp in other states, examine all your equipment for velvety beige egg masses and scrape off any you find before returning home.

For more information, visit www.emeraldashborer.info/ or www.missouriconservation.org/forest/health/gypsy/. If you think you may have either of these pests, catch one and put it in a plastic bag in the freezer until you can contact the nearest Conservation Department office (see page 1 for a list of regional office phone numbers).



Gypsy moth and egg mass



Eastern bluebird

Missouri Bluebird Society to Meet

The newly formed Missouri Bluebird Society will hold its first annual meeting on Sept. 9 at the Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Keith Kridler, co-author of the *Bluebird Monitor's Guide* and charter member of the North American Bluebird Society, is the keynote speaker.

The society was founded to enhance the welfare and broaden public awareness of the eastern bluebird, Missouri's state bird. The group also seeks to improve habitat and nesting opportunities for other native cavity-nesting birds like prothonotary warblers and chickadees. All native hole-dwelling species are challenged by competition with aggressive, introduced house sparrows and european starlings.

Those who join during the first year are designated as charter members and will receive an attractive color certificate featuring a photo by retired Missouri Department of Conservation photographer Jim Rathert.

For more information visit www.missouribluebird.org or call 573/638-2473 or 573/634-5446.

ST. LOUIS RV SHOW

The 17th St. Louis Fall RV Show will return to the St. Louis Mills Shopping Center in Hazelwood Sept. 8 through 10, bringing with it nearly 350 recreational vehicles of every description, including 2007 models and year-end close-outs. Admission and parking are free. Hours are 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sept. 8 and 9 and 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sept. 10. More information is available at www.stlrv.com, or by calling 314/355-1236.

Shortnose gar fishing record falls

Another state fishing record fell on June 16, when Brad Smith of Center, Mo., took a 13-pound shortnose gar with bowfishing tackle at Mark Twain Lake. The previous record in the Alternative Methods category was a 12-pound, 3-ounce fish taken by Willard resident Greg Rippee at Pomme de Terre Lake in 1997. Other state-record fish caught this year include a 9-pound, 10-ounce river red-horse sucker in January, a 5-pound black crappie in April and a 6-pound, 6-ounce yellow bullhead in May. A complete list of Missouri fishing records is available online at www.missouriconservation.org.



Flora of Missouri, Volume II, now on sale

The Missouri Botanical Garden is revising and reissuing a Missouri conservation classic, Steyermark's *Flora of Missouri*. This three-volume set will be the ultimate reference book for Show-Me-State naturalists and for amateur botanists who want to answer the question, "What is that plant?"

Often referred to as the state's botanical bible, the original edition was written by Conservation Hall of Famer Julian Steyermark and first published in 1963. The Botanical Garden, with help from the Conservation Department, is in the midst of updating the book.

Volume I, with an introduction to Missouri natural history and information about

ferns, conifers, and the first portion of flowering plants, came out in 1999.

The 1,200-page Volume II now is available. It covers more than 40 families of flowering plants.

Besides descriptions and keys for plant identification, the second volume contains discussions of the taxonomy, ecology and conservation of each species, as well as summaries of food, medicine, craft, gardening and other uses and poisonous properties. Most of the species accounts are accompanied by black-and-white illustrations. Maps show the distribution of each species in Missouri.

Research on the remaining plant groups is underway. The final volume in the set is expected to take several more years to complete.

Volume II is available from the Missouri Botanical Garden Press for \$48 plus shipping. Volume I is still available for \$38 plus shipping. For more information or to order copies, call MBG Press toll free at 877/271-1930, e-mail mbgpress@mobot.org, or visit their website, www.mbgpress.org.





Cape Conservation Campus plans Hunting & Fishing Day event

Southeast Missouri residents can learn about hunting and fishing at a special event at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sept. 30. "Connecting People with the Land" is a celebration of the conservation and preservation of the natural and cultural resources of southeast Missouri. There will be hands-on learning stations for traditional archery, hunting, fishing and other outdoor skills. The Southeast Regional Museum will be on hand with native American artifacts and kid-friendly archaeology stations. Auditorium presentations will take place on the hour. Call 573/290-5218 for more information.

Deer hunters can help the needy

With archery deer season opening Sept. 15, it's time for Missouri hunters to think about sharing the riches of the field with those less fortunate. Since 1992, Share the Harvest has given Missouri hunters the opportunity to donate venison to food banks and other charitable organizations. From the modest start of a few hundred pounds in the Columbia area, the program has grown to funneling more than 120 tons of venison to needy families annually through dozens of local programs. You can be part of this amazing endeavor. To start your own Share the Harvest program, contact the Conservation Federation of Missouri at 573/634-2322 or



mofed@socket.net. To donate venison, consult the "2006 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Information" booklet, available wherever hunting permits are sold or visit www.missouriconservation.org/hunt/deer/share/.



Stream Team tally tops 3,000

The Missouri Stream Team Program is proof of Victor Hugo's assertion that nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come. When the Conservation Federation of Missouri and the Missouri departments of Conservation and Natural Resources founded the program in 1989, they hoped one day to have 250 citizen groups actively working to improve and protect the state's streams. They surpassed that figure in just two years. Last May, Missouri's 3,000th Stream Team—the Coldwater Creek Reclaimers—hit the water for their first activity, a trash pickup. The team consists of James and Sheila MacBride of Fredericktown and their sons Elijah MacBride, 11, Chayce Mell, 9, and Bryce Mell, 7. "The boys were really excited," said James. "It's a little bit of bragging rights, being the 3,000th Stream Team." Taking its cue from citizens, the Conservation Department has set the goal of doubling the number of Stream Teams again, to 6,000. To learn more about Stream Teams, including how to start one, go online at www.mostreamteam.org.



TEAL HUNTERS GET 16-DAY SEASON

For the first time since 2003, Missouri teal hunters will have a 16-day season to pursue the speedy little birds. Waterfowl seasons are set on the basis of annual breeding population surveys. To justify a 16-day season, blue-winged teal numbers must be above 4.7 million in spring surveys. This year they reached 5.9 million, a 28 percent increase from last year. This year's early teal season will open Sept. 9 and run through Sept. 24. The increase in teal numbers and encouraging reports about habitat conditions in the northern breeding grounds are good signs for the regular waterfowl season.



Blue-winged teal

Outdoor Calendar

Hunting

	open	close
Common Snipe	9/1/06	12/16/06
Coyotes	5/15/06	3/31/07
Crow	11/1/06	3/3/07
Deer		
Archery	9/15/06	11/10/06
	11/22/06	1/15/07
Urban Counties (antlerless only)	10/6/06	10/9/06
Youth	10/28/06	10/29/06
November	11/11/06	11/21/06
Muzzleloader	11/24/06	12/3/06
Antlerless	12/9/06	12/17/06
Dove	9/1/06	11/9/06
Furbearers	11/15/06	2/15/07
Groundhog	5/15/06	12/15/06
Pheasant		
North Zone	11/1/06	1/15/07
South Zone	12/1/06	12/12/06
Quail	11/1/06	1/15/07
Rabbits	10/1/06	2/15/07
Ruffed Grouse	10/15/06	1/15/07
Sora and Virginia Rails	9/1/06	11/9/06
Squirrels	5/27/06	2/15/07
Teal	9/9/06	9/24/06
Turkey, Archery	9/15/06	11/10/06
	11/22/06	1/15/07
Turkey Fall Firearms	10/1/06	10/31/06
Woodcock	10/15/06	11/28/06

Fishing

Black Bass (certain Ozark streams, see the <i>Wildlife Code</i>)	5/27/06	2/28/07
impoundments and other streams year round		
Bullfrog	sunset	midnight
	6/30/06	10/31/06
Gigging nongame fish	9/15/06	1/31/07
Trout Parks	3/1/06	10/31/06

Trapping

Beaver	11/15/06	3/31/07
Furbearers	11/15/06	2/15/07
Otters & Muskrats	11/15/06	see <i>Wildlife Code</i>

For complete information about seasons, limits, methods and restrictions, consult the *Wildlife Code* and the current summaries of "Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations" and "Missouri Fishing Regulations," the "Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information," the "Waterfowl Hunting Digest" and the "Migratory Bird Hunting Digest." This information is on our Web site at www.MissouriConservation.org/regs/ and at permit vendors.

The Conservation Department's computerized point-of-sale system allows you to purchase or replace your permits through local vendors or by phone. The toll-free number is 800/392-4115. Allow 10 days for delivery of telephone purchases. To purchase permits online go to www.wildlifelicense.com/mo/.

AGENT NOTEBOOK

Have you ever witnessed a wildlife

violation or seen someone setting fire to timber they didn't own?

Many folks want these kinds of activities to stop but are hesitant to speak openly about them. In Missouri, however, people have the option of reporting poachers or arsonists through the Operation Game Thief (OGT) and Operation Forest Arson (OFA) hot lines.

These two programs, both of which can be reached by dialing 800/392-1111, are sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the U.S. Forest Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation. These privately funded programs provide rewards for information leading to the arrest of game-law violators or forest arsonists. Callers can remain anonymous and collect rewards anonymously, and all the information they provide is kept in strict confidence.

Poachers and arsonists are responsible for stealing thousands of dollars each year from Missouri citizens by destroying habitat, taking excessive amounts of wildlife and damaging private property. Their actions also deprive law-abiding citizens of their right to hunt legally, safely and ethically.

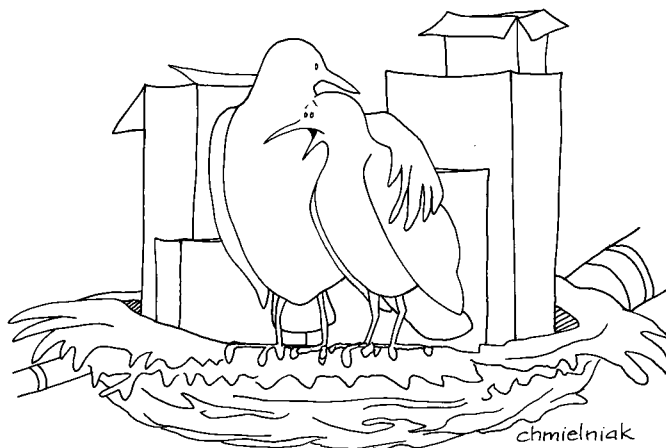
Help keep Missouri's wildlife and forest resources free from poachers and arsonists. Call the hot lines at 800/392-1111, or call your county conservation agent, whenever you witness a violation. —Christine Campbell, Nodaway County



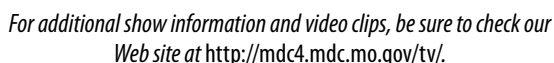
To learn about bobwhite quail management and Missouri's quail recovery efforts, check out

www.missouriconservation.org

Keyword: quail



"Well, Dear, we're left with an empty nest—except for the boxes of stuff the kids said they'd be back for later."



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Dove days

Sunflowers are an excellent crop to plant if you want to manage your land for quality dove hunting. The 2006 dove hunting season is Sept. 1 through Nov. 9.—*Jim Rathert*



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